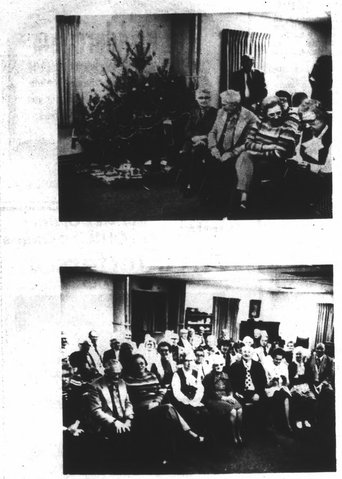

Pamplin Chapter A.A.R.P. Had Christmas Supper

The Pamplin Chapter, Amrican Association of R tired Persons held their Christmas covered dish supper Thursday evening of last week at the Pamplin United Methodist Church in the Fellowship Hall. With an approximate membership fo 42, about 40 persons attended the supper.

The Chapter tries to make every effort to have things as pleasant as possible for the members and they are continuing to grow as an organization.

Members brought gifts to put under their tree that will be taken to patients in local nursing homes.

Officers for the new year were installed at this meeting.

Mr. Wallace Clair, Director of Central Virginia Commission on Aging, was present and spoke on the objectives of the commission - namely to try and get taxes reduced for the elderly and try and get utility costs reduced for elderly. He also showed slides on how transportation is handled for the elderly who need assistance. Sometimes they take the "paper work" to the persons rather than put them through the ordeal of trying to travel by van.

A group of young people from Elon Baptist Church attended the party in an effort to close the generation gap between the young and the older.

To close the meeting, Mr. James L. Collins, Vice President and Program Chairman for the Pamplin Chapter, entertained the people with a comedy song that he used to do for children in years past.

Merry Christmas

Electric Blanket Safety

BLACKSBURG - Although electric blankets and heating pads are generally safe and convenient to use, when mishandled they can cause fire, shock and burn.

The user must exercise more than average care in the purchase, handling and use of these appliances, cautioned Virginia Tech Extension specialist in home furnishings, Katherine Habel.

Buy only electric blankets and heating pads which have the Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) seal, she recommended.

Electric blankets and heating pads are more vulnerable to problems than other appliances, mainly because most of their wiring is encased in cloth - - not in metal or plastic. As a result, improper use or rough handling can produce frayed or exposed wires with their accompany shock and fire risks.

Basically, these appliances have a series of insulated, waterproof wires between two layers of covering. Thermostats inside the appliances are supposed to cut off the current in case of overheating.

An electric blanket is not supposed to be warm to the touch. The covering should give only the warmth you get when sleeping under regular blankets. The temperature regulation is in the heating control box.

Heating pads are usually smaller and give heat directly to the body. These pads usually are wetproof or have moisture resistant envelopes.

Habel, a Virginia Tech faculty member, listed key guides to care for electric blankets and pads.

Do not fold, sit, or lie on them. Do not let pets play on them. Do not stick pins or needles into them or pin to the mattress. Dry clean only if label says you can. Follow manufacturer's instructions on washing.

When not in use turn off. Stop use if you notice discoloration, overheating, exposed wiring, noise from the control unit, or the blanket or pad takes too long to provide heat.

Have repairs done only by a manufacturer or authorized serviceman. Pads, unless wetproof types, should not be wet or damp. Only the outside covers should be laundered. A small child or invalid should use a pad only under supervision.

Electric blankets should never be used by persons insensitive to heat, on children's beds and by some elderly people. Keep the blanket dry when in use. Any liquids may cause a short circuit. Keep controls away from open windows. Extreme temperature changes affect them.

Electric blankets come in white and a variety of colors. Some have printed bindings to match other bed coverings. To save time on making decisions, take your color plan along to the store when making your selections.

To have all your furnishings fit into a color idea costs no more in dollars, just a little time. The total look can be one that is most pleasing and satisfying.

Electric blankets come in sizes for most twin, regular, queen, or king sizes. Measure your mattress and check out the size of your favorite blanket. Take measurements and compare with the size of the electric blanket. A tape measure will help you to be accurate in getting the size you want.

Poinsettia Care

BLACKSBURG - The poinsettia, a sensitive plant, should be kept in an area at a uniform temperature, between 60 and 75 degrees Fahrenheit. Lower the temperature at night, recommended Paul L. Smeal, Virginia Tech Extension specialist in nursery production.

Poinsettias need bright light, but not direct sun, and moist, not dry, air.

If placed in a window, the plant should be removed at night if there is a danger of chilling.

Soil mixture should be maintained at moderate and uniform levels, neither too wet nor too dry.

The average length of life in the home is two to three weeks.

Decorative Idea:

For the feeling of Christmas without the hassle of a Christmas tree, apply your Christmas decorations directly to a room divider. Use masking tape to attach the decorations to a painted surface, or apply a cloth covering over the divider and attach ornaments directly to it.

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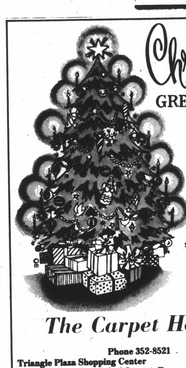

Christmas
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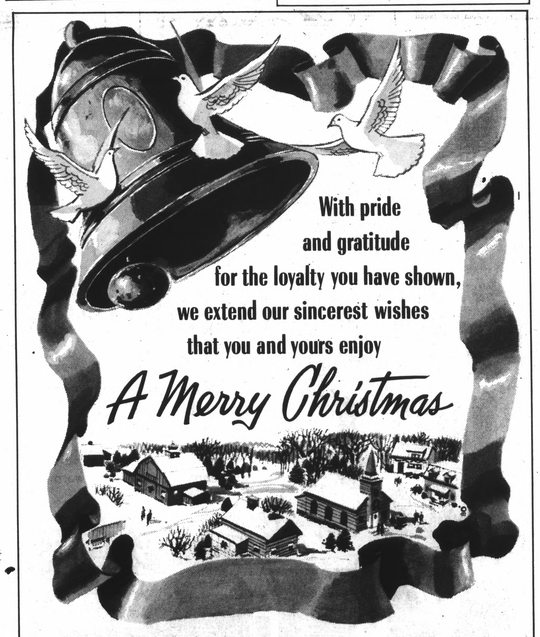

With pride and gratitude for the loyalty you have shown, we extend our sincerest wishes that you and yours enjoy
A Merry Christmas
King's Super Market
Triangle Plaza Shopping Center
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WHO DOESN'T NEED MONEY?
Ever heard that old cliche? Unfortunately, the people that really need money don't have the money to secure a loan of the type they need, nor do they know where to go to get that much needed financing.

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BUSINESS EXPANSION
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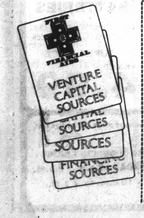

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Capitol Comments

BY DAN DANIEL FIFTH DISTRICT, VA.

With passage of energy legislation, we are now hopefully on the road to some rational actions with respect to our energy resources. The word "hopefully" must be added, because there are so many questions as yet unanswered in this vast area.

In addition, many of the action s which are mandated or allowed under the new legislation are already being seen as contradictory of each other and of other laws already on the books. A good case in point is the recent report that one of the major oil companies has begun to ration unleaded gasoline, and others may soon follow suit.

Already, some people are saying that it is another plot on the part of Big Oil to manipulate things. This may be, and already the Department of Energy and the Council on Wage and Price Stability have begun to explore this possibility. But there is a set of facts which indicates that the company is every bit as much a victim of the present system as you are.

There are three major areas of emphasis in public policy today - a lower rate of inflation, a cleaner environment, and conservation of fuel.

Because of the structure of the oil company in question, under the present price control system, its product sells at the pump for two or three cents per gallon under other brands in many locations. This immediately makes it a more attractive brand, and encourages its use, not its conservation.

As more cars appear on the road with catalytic converters, the demand for unleaded gasoline rises. But unleaded gas is more difficult and expensive to manufacture so the companies quite reasonably, make no more than they feel they absolutely must, in order to satisfy the need.

But something unusual, and beyond the control of anyone, has happened. We have had an unusually warm fall. More people took longer drives, and demand for unleaded gasoline rose. The problem now faced developed.

How would you solve the problem? If the price of gasoline rises, the cost of living goes up. If the price is kept down, consumption goes up. If the pollution control devices are abandoned, air quality gets worse, and while this will not bother some people, those who already have cars with catalytic converters will find it even more difficult to get gasoline. Once again, in trying to solve one problem, the government has been party to creation of another.

These are not easy facts to face, but they are the facts, and they must be faced. It is primarily for these reasons, and applying the "51 percent rule," I supported the energy bill. We are in perilous times, insofar as energy is concerned, and I cannot state this strongly enough. If an embargo, such as that imposed in 1973 and 1974, is again imposed, we will be in worse shape by far than we then were. Our energy dependency has doubled in the intervening years, and because of uncertainty and inequities in our energy policy - non-policy would be a better word - the amount of domestically-produced fuel has declined dramatically. The creation of a national energy policy - even an imperfect one - provides a focal point around which facts can be accumulated and priorities sorted out. And law - any law - has one virtue. It can be changed.

If the present policy can lead to rational debate and decision-making, the cost will be worth it. If it cannot, it can be changed. If it does not, then the American people have no one to blame but themselves, for continuing to elect to public office those who refuse to confront the facts, and mislead them on the options.

FORMULA FOR MEASURING FIREWOOD

BLACKSBURG - A good rule of thumb to measure firewood is that a standard half-ton pickup truck, without heavy-duty springs, can carry about ½ cord of wood.

If firewood is being sold by the cord, to figure out what part of a cord you have, calculate on this formula suggested Virginia Tech Extension specialists in wood technology.

When the wood is stacked, muliply the length, width and height of the stack in feet, and divide by 128 to obtain the portion of a cord.

Farm Income And Cost Up In 1978

The year of 1978 set new records in the farm economic sector according to Dr. Berkwood Farmer, Chief Economist with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Cash receipts and net farm incomes are projected to be a record levels for the year. Unfortunately the same is true of farm production expenses and the farm debt.

The billion dollar mark was established for cash receipts for farm income, farm production expenses and the total farm debt. Two-thirds of the farm debt is in farm mortgages while one-third is non-real estate debt.

Dr. Farmer noted that inflation was a major concern of Virginia farmers with increased costs of production inputs and capital items. The not only adversely affects the profit and tax prosition of farmers, but the same inflation factors increase the non-farm costs for food items.

"Over half the rise in food costs this year have been caused by increased costs in marketing and processing, "Dr. Farmer pointed out.

"It would seem to me that the effect of food prices on inflation has been overstated. Over the last 10 years increased food prices have only added 1 percentage point on an average yearly basis."

The farmer continues to gain in productivity per man hour. Since 1958 he has registered an annual gain of 5.8 percent while non-farm workers have only increased less than two percent per man hour per year.

"This points out," said Dr. Farmer, "That farmers are obviously not receiving reasonable returns on their investments when compared to the non-farm economy. In addition, the parity ratio - - ratio of index prices received by farmers for their products to the index paid by farmers - - can be considered one of the measures of the economic return to farmers for their farming efforts. In 1978 farmers received approximately 70 percent of parity for their products. This ratio must increase if our farmers are to show reasonable returns on their investments in agriculture al production.

"We are currently estimating the net farm income for 1978 in Virginia to reach an average of $5,700, however inflation has reduced this to about $2,800 in actual purchasing power. So inflation not only increases the farmer's cost of production but it also drastically reduces the purchasing power of farm income."

The five major crops in Virginia in 1977 in descending order, were tobacco, peanuts, soybeans, corn and potatoes. Cash receipts for those same crops strengthened in 1978, as soybeans replaced peanuts as the second highest revenue generating crop. Apples and peaches after two bad years of frost-freeze showed a sizeable increase in estimated cash receipts.

The five major livestock and livestock products were milk, cattle and calves, broilers, hogs and turkeys. All of these livestock and livestock products showed increases during the year.

Catholic Church Services Being Held At Oakville School

Our Lady Of Peace Catholic Church is now holding church services each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. at the Oakville School Building.

Members and friends are invited to attend.

TRY CLASSIFIED ADS THEY WORK

VA Questions And Answers

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following are representative questions answered daily by VA counselors. Full information is available at any VA office.

Q - I am the widow of a veteran of World War II and the Korean War. My husband never used the government home loan benefit provided for such veterans. Am I entitled to this loan?

A - You are the only if your husband died as a result of a service-connected disability incurred during his World War II or Korean service, and you are presently unmarried. The fact that your husband may or may not have obtained a GI loan would not affect your entitlement to this benefit. Contact the VA regional office or veterans service organization in your area for specific information.

Q - I held on to the National Service Life Insurance term policy after WWII. Is it true that if I continue to hold this policy during my older years it could cost me as much as $554 a month for this $10,000 policy?

A - That's correct. Term insurance while you're young is excellent, inexpensive coverage. As you grow older, the cost increases dramatically. You may convert to a permanent plan which will build cash reserve, and the premium will not increase in cost with age. Check with your nearest VA regional office.

Q - What is the amount of the new VA automobile grant which became effective Oct. 1, 1978?

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Christmas Greetings

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Greetings

It's time to be jolly! You've made us very happy this Christmas! Thanks for being such wonderful friends.
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The Jennings

Good Wishes at Christmas
To all the friends we have had the pleasure of serving — wishes for a warm, old-fashioned, family-filled holiday.
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Christmas Blessings

"And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Let us rejoice!
Isaiah 9:6
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